

# In-Fur-Nation

## Your Guide to the World of Furry Fandom

Volume 17, Number 4

All The News We Get, We Print!

Fall, 2006



< Image c. 2006 Sony Pictures Imageworks >

"This is gonna be GRRRREAT!" – McSquizzzy, squirrel-with-attitude, from Sony Pictures's *Open Season*.

Summer turns to fall, and then it's election time. So vote for In-Fur-Nation! Ha ha ha. Well, at least enjoy this sampling of Furry News we have to offer...

One of Furry Fandom's well-known resources made a welcome return recently. The news site [www.flayrah.com](http://www.flayrah.com) (a frequent source for this very fanzine) closed up shop in June of this year, when the original web master struggled with a lack of time and energy to maintain it. Then, just recently, Flayrah was picked up again, this time by the folks at critter.net. Make sure to check them out at the old address, [www.flayrah.com](http://www.flayrah.com), for more "Unusually Good Information".

Anthropomorphic movies (both "furry" and otherwise) have had a good year. Not just from the sheer number of them, but the fact that most (though definitely not all!) have done rather well at the box office. That trend continued with Sony Picture's *Open Season*, which was the number one film in America for its opening weekend – and which has been showing good legs so far. (Interestingly, voice actor **Ashton Kutcher** appears in both *Open Season* and the number-two movie at the box office for that same weekend, the live-action film *The Guardian*.) If you enjoyed *Open Season* you may want to look for the book *The Art of Open Season* (written and edited by **Linda Sunshine**, published by Insight Editions). It features plenty of pictures from the character design, visual development, production design, and story sequences from the hit film.

Of course, there are other opinions... Though many of the CGI films (furry and otherwise) have done well this year, the fact that none of them have achieved "true international blockbuster" status (of the *Finding Nemo* or *Shrek 2* variety) has some movie-business insiders worrying aloud about a "CGI glut" and the effects that it might have. And they're passing on that worry to many of the Hollywood studios...

who are responding, it seems, by tightening their belts. Word is out that both Disney Studios and Pixar Films will be experiencing staff reductions following their next animated films (*Meet the Robinsons* and *Ratatouille*, respectively). Much smaller crews will thus be working on the Disney/Pixar slate of upcoming films (*American Dog*, *W.A.L.E.*, *Rapunzel*, and the semi-live-action film *Enchanted*). In addition, the new management at Disney is trying to lean Disney Studios back toward producing 2D animated films (leaving the CGI films to Pixar). They've brought back the *Little Mermaid* / *Treasure Planet* team of **John Musker** and **Ron Clements** to begin production on the 2D film *The Frog Princess*. Meanwhile, over at Dreamworks Animation, pressure is high in front of the 2007 release of *Shrek the Third*. Still, the studio is moving ahead with a planned sequel to the hit *Madagascar*, which is currently scheduled for release in late 2008.

Now let's not go forgetting about the rest of this year... We still have the release of *Flushed Away*, *Happy Feet*, and *Charlotte's Web* to think about. *Flushed Away* is the latest collaboration between Dreamworks Animation and Aardman Studios (who, together, brought us *Wallace and Gromit in The Curse of the Were-Rabbit* last year). *Flushed* is also Aardman's first foray into full CGI – the large crowd scenes and big watery sewer would have been simply impossible to create using clay and stop-motion. If you don't know, the story features **Hugh Jackman** as the voice of a posh pet rat named Roddy (no relation – ye ed-otter) who's flushed down a toilet by an invading free-loader – and who discovers a whole new world in the sewers beneath London. Jackman also voices a character in *Happy Feet*, coming later in November from Warner Brothers – and directed by none other than **George Miller** (producer of *Babe* and director of the *Mad Max* movies). *Feet*, of course, stars **Elijah Wood** as the voice of Mumble, a penguin who (unlike the rest of his kind) can't sing – but he's a great dancer! (The cine-manga version of *Happy Feet* is being released by Tokyo Pop. Also look for *Flushed Away: The Essential Guide* and *Happy Feet: The Essential Guide*, both released in hardcover by DK Publishing.) *Happy Feet* is also being shown in 70 mm in selected IMAX theaters around the U.S. Finally in December comes the new live-action version (with CGI help) of the classic story *Charlotte's Web* by **E.B. White**. Famously animated once before by Hanna Barbera in 1973, this new version comes to us from Disney Studios and Walden Media (the folks responsible for last year's first *Namie* picture), with help from Nickelodeon. No Hugh Jackman in this one, but **Julie Roberts** (as Charlotte) and a host of big-name Hollywood stars are on hand to lend their voices.

Meanwhile, in the it's-not-a-furry-movie-BUT department... 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox will release the movie *Eragon* this December 15. Based on the fantasy novel by **Christopher Paolini**, the story follows a teenage boy who discovers what he

thinks is a large gem... which actually turns out to be a dragon's egg. Raising the dragon himself, the boy Eragon discovers that he and his dragon Safira may be destined to free their kingdom from the king's despotic rule. Fox has been very mum about who will play the voice of Safira, but they have confirmed that she does indeed speak.

Looking into the future – and the past! Dreamworks Animation has announced plans for a feature film version of *Mr. Peabody and Sherman* from the old *Rocky & Bullwinkle* TV series. No word yet on if the film is planned for 2D, 3D, live-action or whatever, but **Rob Minkoff** of *The Lion King* fame is set to direct.

This coming January, watch out for *Happy N'Ever After*, a new CGI film created by Berlin Animation Films and distributed (in the USA) by Lionsgate Films. When the wizard (voiced by **George Carlin**) in charge of balancing good and evil takes a vacation, his bumbling assistants (a cat and a hog – voiced by **Andy Dick** and **Wallace Shawn**, respectively) accidentally allow the evil Stepmother (**Sigourney Weaver**) to get hold of the Wizard's magic staff – and soon, all fairy tale hell is breaking loose.

So, like we said before, times they are a changin' at Disney... now that Pixar head-honcho **John Lasseter** is in charge of Disney Animation (among other things), word has been going around that Disney would slow down (if not stop) production of the endless string of sequels to classic animated films that have characterized the Mouse House (and, admittedly, made it tons of money) over the past decade or so. Lasseter's mantra has been stated as "The only reason to do a sequel is if you have a great story, period". Therefore, while *Brother Bear 2* was one of the best selling DVD's in the U.S. for September, and *The Fox and the Hound 2* is set for release in December, production on the *Aristocats* sequel has shut down – and, at this point, it's questionable whether it's even going to begin on the planned sequel to *The Adventures of Robin Hood*. However, the Special Edition DVD of *Robin Hood* (promising to have a better-quality transfer and sound than the previous Golden Edition) is still due to be released in November.

Speaking of DVD releases, Universals 2D feature *Curious George* came out in October, as did Dreamworks Animations hit *Over the Hedge*. Interestingly, the *Hedge* DVD features not only the usual extras but also a "Christmas Present". A special DVD feature which will not activate itself until November 28! It also features a new animated short called *Hammy's Boomerang Adventure* (!).

Fans of Japanese giant monsters can rejoice: The original 98-minute 1954 version of *Gojira* (directed by **Isujiro Honda**) has been released on DVD – in Japanese, with English subtitles. The same DVD set also includes *Godzilla, King of the Monsters*, the Americanized version of the film which features **Raymon Burr**.

Moving from movies to TV, it's time for MIPCOM – the annual TV and audio-visual trade show where production companies from all over the world try to find distribution for their new show concepts. The November issue of *Animation* magazine provides coverage of the show, as well as ads for several new shows looking for distribution. Such as: *Master Raindrop* (a CGI adventure show based on oriental legends) and *Croco Loco* (which uses funny animals to teach English as a second language to German kids (!)) from

Junior Productions. *Pet Pals*, the *Band* from Alconi Cartoon in Italy, *Skunk Ful* from Cartoon Saloon in Ireland ([www.cartoonsaloon.ie](http://www.cartoonsaloon.ie)), *Horseland* from DIC (based on a very popular on-line fantasy horse-trading (literally) site, this show features anthropomorphic horses. Visit [www.dicentertainment.com](http://www.dicentertainment.com)), *Atilla* and the *Great Blue Bean* (Atilla, in this case, being a hog. Visit him at [www.myspace.com/attilaattheham](http://www.myspace.com/attilaattheham)), *Slim Pig* (about a 2-D pig living in a 3-D world), *The Owl*, *Pororo the Little Penguin*, and *Toopy and Binoo* (a mouse and kitten who entertain younger kids, both on Canadian TV, and on the Internet at [www.toopyandbinoo.com](http://www.toopyandbinoo.com)). You can also visit [www.animationmagazine.net](http://www.animationmagazine.net) to find out more about these and many more shows looking to find their way into your television soon!

Also from MIPCOM: Everyone's favorite hyper-violent little furies, the *Happy Tree Friends*, are all set to expand their empire. They've from the Internet to cable TV (on G4, to be precise) with a new half-hour show that features 7-minute episodes that expand the characters' relationships – all without a word spoken, still. Now comes the word that this December will feature the new *Happy Tree Friends Christmas Special* (oh dear...) on DVD, as well as a 39-episode DVD compilation of their new cable show from BCI.

All 13 original episodes of the 1970's animated TV series *Return to the Planet of the Apes* have been released on DVD by Fox Home Entertainment. Created by **DePatie/Freleng** (of *Pink Panther* fame), the animated series featured many of the characters from the *Planet of the Apes* feature films, as human astronauts stumble across a world of (very) technologically advanced apes.

In case we've forgotten to marvel about it yet... *Jane and the Dragon* is a new motion-capture/CGI TV series, part of the YTV children's programming group (it's also playing on NBC, Saturday mornings, in some areas). The show is produced in Canada by Nelvana Productions, with plenty of technological assistance from the folks at Weta Digital – yes, the same folks who brought us *The Lord of the Rings*. In this new series, young Jane is not like other girls in her pre-Renaissance kingdom. She'd rather study to be a knight than a lady-in-waiting. Helping her out on her unlikely quest is her best friend: A friendly, brainy, fire-breathing dragon. You can find out more about the show (and see an episode) at [www.ytv.com/programming/shows/jane\\_dragon](http://www.ytv.com/programming/shows/jane_dragon).

If it hasn't made its way 'round the fandom yet, make sure to check out the video for the California band Grandaddy and their new song called "Nature Anthem". Fur-suits a-plenty, and a tune that you *will* not be able to get out of your head anytime soon! Curious? You can see it at [www.devilducky.com/media/25580/](http://www.devilducky.com/media/25580/).

The Digital Animation and Visual Effects School (aka "DAVE-School") offers a one-year training program in Computer Animation at Universal Studios in Florida (Orlando). After working on a series of tutorials with professionals in the business, class members work together to create an animated short film or game – which is then put up on-line. Of note to furry fans is a film called "Dragonfellow", based on a folk song by **Jack Houston**. You can view it at [www.daveschool.com/MoviePages/DragonFellow/dragonfellow/index.html](http://www.daveschool.com/MoviePages/DragonFellow/dragonfellow/index.html).

New from Radio Comix' "Sin Factory" imprint is *Foxxyes*, edited by **Elin Winkler**. This new adult black & white title features pin-ups and short comics of vikens – every size, shape, and fantasy included. Featured artists and writers include **Liquid Mark, J. L. Anderson, Artassassin, Mary Bellamy, Rings Case, David Davis, Shon Howell**, and many others as well. Also coming soon from Sin Factory is the first issue of *Black Cats: Never Lucky*, a black & white (of course!) anthology of erotic "Loligoth" stories that also features some furry content.

Shanda Fantasy Arts presents another edition of the *Giant Shanda Animal*, featuring characters from *Shanda the Panda* (and edited by **Mike Curtis**, of course). This year features more adventures of the teenage Quinn, Yoyo at her new job, and even a *Shanda* spoof of *Doctor Who*.

Alias Enterprises presents the new full-color manga digest version of *Lullaby*, written by **Mike S. Miller** and **Ben Avery** and illustrated by **Hector Sevilla**. Alice (security chief of Wonderland), Jim Hawkins, the Pied Piper, Little Red Riding Hood (who's a werewolf), and Pinocchio travel to distant Oz to discover the source of an evil magic warping the land of Lullaby.

In the "Bit late there, guys" Department... Dark Horse Comics presents the official comic book adaptation of **Peter Jackson's King Kong**. You know the story, now see it on the printed page in this full-color trade paperback edition, coming in October.

A new full-color comic book series from Moonstone: *Werewolves: Call of the Wild* by **Mike Oliveri** and **Joe Bucco**. If you're going to murder a man in cold blood, you'd better hope that his brother doesn't turn out to be a vengeful werewolf...

Former *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Greg the Bunny* star **Ther Green** returns as the creator of *Freshmen* from Top Cow Productions – a full-color comic book that combines super-heroes with college survival skills. It features heroes with names like Wannabe, The Intoxicator, and Mr. Fiddlestix – the last one being a talking beaver who gives advice. It's scripted by **Hugh Sterbakov** and illustrated by **Will Conrad** and **Blond**.

Coming this November from Antarctic Press is the full-color *Gold Digger 15th Anniversary Special*, celebrating 15 years (of course) of **Fred Perry's** famous manga-style action-adventure-comedy comic. This collection traces the routes of how it all began, and how it all lead to 150 issues, lots of special collections, and even animation.

In the *Infinite Crisis* maxi-series from DC Comics, Superboy was killed. Since then, many fans have been asking DC what happened after to Krypto, Superboy's dog. This December, writer **Kurt Busiek** and artists **Rick Leonardi** and **Jesus Merino** present *Superman #659*: It tells the story of the dog of steel's darkest days, laying the groundwork for his surprising future. [Unlike the *Krypto* animated TV series, this appears to be a completely serious *Krypto* story – *ye ed-otte!*]

**Richard Moore**, creator of *Far West* and *Boneyard*, has a new collection of illustrated erotic stories and pin-up art called *Short Strokes Volume Two* from NBM/America. Some of his characters are very human, and some are not so much... and some are not at all!

A name to look up in fantasy/romance/erotica: **Susan Krinard**. She's best known for a series of werewolf romance novels (with titles like *Once a Wolf and Touch of the Wolf*) published by Bantam. Her most recent book is *Lord of the Beasts*, in which a veterinarian who possesses the power of empathy with animals – courtesy of his enchanted father – finds his beastial desires awakened by a very special woman. And speaking of special women... Lady Amalia Langford is a member of the drakon, an ancient species able to alter their shape from human to dragon to clouds of smoke. In *The Smoke Thief* and *The Dream Thief* by **Shana Abe** (also published by Bantam), the drakon must deal with one of their own who has turned to thievery – and who may expose their species to human kind, with dire consequences. Can love call the thief back to the fold...?

**Al Sarrantonio's Mars** series (*Haydn of Mars, Sebastian of Mars, and Queen of Mars*, all from Ace Books) has been released by the Science Fiction Book Club in a single-volume omnibus edition called *Masters of Mars*. In a far-future time, the planet Mars is ruled by a race of intelligent cat-people, after having been terraformed by humans many ages before... and the memories of the Old Ones are all but forgotten, the ruins of their machines a mystery to be explored...

Members of the current generation may not be familiar with **Tove Jansson** from Finland and her famous creation, the Moomin. These hippo-like trolls and their magical homeland have been featured in comic strips and books written by the late Ms. Jansson since 1954 – and since then they've become famous throughout Europe, eventually finding their way to the US. Now those earliest strips have been collected in a new hardcover book entitled *Moomin: The Complete Tove Jansson Comic Strip, Volume 1* (published by Drawn & Quarterly).

New from Paizo Publishing is *The Art of Dragon Magazine* hardcover collection, featuring more than 25 years of fantastic illustration from the premier magazine of *Dungeons and Dragons* and other fantasy role-playing games. Featured artists include **Keith Parkinson, Jeff Easley, Clyde Caldwell, Brom**, and of course **Larry Elmore**. In the same vein, Dragonlance Books is releasing *Dragonlance: A Practical Guide to Dragons*, a field guide to the many dragon types that can be encountered on the world of Krynn.

Fans of Disney's *Duck Tales*, Duckburg, and **Carl Barks** in general should look for *Carl Barks' Greatest Duck Tales Stories* (Volumes 1 and 2, released in trade paperback by Gemstone Publishing). Both volumes feature full-color *Uncle Scrooge* adventures that were later adapted for the *Duck Tales* TV series.

Mirage Studios is releasing *Tales of the TMNT* as a series of collected black & white storyline books. That is, each book will follow particular issues that thematically linked. Volume 1 of the trade paperback series features issues 1, 10, 16, 18, and 26, all linked by Donatello's viewpoint. The other ninja turtles, Splinter, and Casey Jones all make appearances too, of course.

Fans of *Family Guy* – at least the funnier parts of the show – will probably want to look up *Family Guy: Brian's Guide to Booze, Broads, and the Lost Art of Being a Man* by **Brian Griffith** (ably assisted by **Andrew Goldberg**, published by Harper Paperbacks). The martini-mixing mutt gives forth

his advice on being a Real Man in these times, garnered from many years warming barstools with his furry rear end from Quahog to L.A.

Motivational speaker **Jim Walkow** has created a new character, Abbott the Zabbit, to spread his message of believing in ourselves and accepting peoples' differences and varieties. He's done so through a children's book, *The Zabbit*, as well as a collection of children's songs and a web site, [www.zabbit.com](http://www.zabbit.com). Young Abbott is teased incessantly by other rabbits for his zebra-like striped fur, but he'll soon learn the secret of a magic that can save all their lives.

*Big Red Dragons Don't Take Naps* is a new illustrated children's book written by **Swan Sheridan** and illustrated by **Tienne Kollars**. While her parents and teachers try to put her to bed, young Elizabeth imagines how much better her life could be if she were actually a rampaging, fire-breathing dragon! What happens? You'll have to visit [www.bigreddragonbook.com](http://www.bigreddragonbook.com) to find out! And speaking of little girls with wild ideas... Gina is a young colts who dreams of being a ballerina, but her weight and clumsiness keep getting in the way. Can she prove the doubters wrong? Find out in *Gina Bina Ballerina*, written and illustrated by **Cathy Howard** and published by Trafford Publishing ([www.trafford.com](http://www.trafford.com)).

The works of animation legend and author/illustrator **Bill Peet** are available at [www.billpeet.net](http://www.billpeet.net). They include such titles as *The Pinkish Purplish Bluish Egg*, *Chester the Worldly Pig*, *Farewell the Shady Glade*, and *The Whingingdilly*. The web site - maintained by Mr. Peet's son - also features biographical information, information on art prints and gallery shows, and much more.

*SeaDogs* is a new full-color trade paperback comic written by **Lisa Wheeler** and illustrated by **Mark Siegel** (published by Aladdin Books). Described as "an epic ocean operetta", it tells the lyrical tale (tail?) of a ship full of sea-going canines, searching for adventure and treasure - and always on the run from the dread pirate Jacques Fil.

Sonic the Hedgehog, Tails, Princess Sally, and all their friends are up and running again (often literally) in the full-color *Sonic the Hedgehog Archives Volume 1* trade paperback from Archie Comics. Written by **Mike Gallagher** and illustrated by **Dave Manak**, this new collection brings together the first four Archie Comics issues of *Sonic* in a special digest format.

It Must Be Yours! *Dork Decade: The Dork Tower Ten-Year Anniversary Color Collection* brings together every one of **John Kovalic's** from *Shadis* magazine and *Dragon* magazine, reprinted in chronological order. This is the first full-color *Dork Tower* collection ever, featuring author's notes, primary sketches, and "surprise guest appearances". It's published by Dork Storm Press, of course.

The publishers of *Anthro* magazine present *Anthology*, a collection of short stories, articles, and other goodies from the first 6 issues. More than 600 pages of material, edited by **Quentin Long**, featuring authors like **Michael W. Bard**, **Joel S. Rosenberg**, **Oren Otter**, **Corvus** and **ShadowWolf**, and many others, as well as reviews by **Fred Patten**. Visit <http://www.lulu.com/content/536807> to find out how to order this first collection.

On the eve of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the release of *The Cat in the Hat*, which forever changed the way that children learn to read, Random House presents *The Annotated Cat: Under the Hats of Seuss and his Cats*. This new hardcover book (edited by **Philip Nel**, and coming this January) examines the story behind the famous book, showing how **Ted Geisel** (Dr. Seuss) came to create the famous children's story - and what happened to it after.

(From *Amazon.com*.) Adventure! Villains! And dragons, dragons, dragons! Brought to us by the creators of the runaway New York Times bestsellers *Dragonology* and *The Dragonology Handbook*, the *Dragonology Chronicles* are a series of dragon adventures told by one of Dr. Drake's young students (to a certain **Dugald A. Steer**). In Volume 1 of the *Chronicles*, *The Dragon's Eye* (published by Candlewick Press), Daniel Cook and his sister, Beatrice, spend the summer with their parents' eccentric former tutor, Dr. Ernest Drake. Not only do Daniel and Beatrice begin to study dragonology, but they are also soon caught up in the race to find the stolen Dragon's Eye jewel - which has the power to reflect the true Dragon Master - before it is stolen by evil dragonologist Ignatius Crook. The two must work with Dr. Drake - as well as many friendly dragons - to foil Ignatius and recover the Dragon's Eye.

One of the most popular (at very least among furry fans!) of the *Simpsons Treehouse of Horror* episodes was number XIII, which featured the segment "The Island of Dr. Hibbert" - in which all your favorite *Simpsons* characters were turned into various animal types. Well now McFarlane Toys presents the *Island of Dr. Hibbert Boxed Set*, an action-figure diorama featuring many of your favorite characters in their animal shapes.

#### Obituaries:

Recently we heard of the passing of **Ed Benedict** of Hanna Barbera Productions. He was nearly 95. Mr. Benedict worked at Hanna Barbera from the early days as a character designer and production designer. His credits included original character designs for Wally Gator, Snagglepuss, Yogi Bear and Boo Boo, Huckleberry Hound, Quickdraw McGraw, and many others. He was also responsible for virtually the entire "look" of *The Flintstones*.

"Y'try that again and I'll be kickin' your furry brown hookey!" - McQuizzay, squirrel-with-attitude, from Sony Pictures's *Open Season*.

**Furry Stuff has ConFurence Stuff!** The original ConFurence General Store (for ConFurrences 0 - 10) has moved to the new Furry Stuff web portal. Check them out at [www.furrystuff.com](http://www.furrystuff.com) to find out more - soon, pictures of what's available will be up on-line. Three of the popular ConFurence T-Shirt designs are still available for a limited time: "Furries in Force" (black on honey-color) by **Eric Schwartz** from CF7, "Furries in Love" (black and pink on grey) by **Rachael Cawley** from CF9, and "Sydney's World" (Sydney on a colored globe on green) by **Ken Sample** from CF10. Plus, a very few of **Mitch Beiro's** colorful "Furries in Space" T-shirts remain (write for sizes available). They also still offer the *ConFurence Seven Highlights Video*, as well as the *ConFurence Eight - Music and Mirth* and *ConFurence Nine - Furries in Love* highlights videos too! Not to mention many cool prints and extra Souvenir Books from past ConFurrences! To find a complete list, visit the

Furry Stuff web site, or send them an SASE at: Furry Stuff, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958.

**Help us keep up with you!** So, we hear you say, how do I keep up my *Subscription to In-Fur-Nation*? We're glad you asked! A subscription to *In-Fur-Nation* will bring you even *more* of what furry fans are looking for around the globe. Find out what to look for, and where to go! It's now brought right to your doorstep (or e-mail box) **four** times a year (winter, spring, summer, and fall), and still for just a whopping **\$5.00** for a year's subscription. That's right, for a year. Just send a check made out to "Furry Stuff" (and note it's for *In-Fur-Nation*), or heck, just send a \$5.00 bill in a darkened envelope. (Trust us, it's an old tradition in the 'zine community. It works). To subscribe, to find out more info, or to send us notes for our Furry News, write us at: *In-Fur-Nation*, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958.

**A Note to the staff members of our many Furry Conventions:** Hey! We wanna help you get the word out! Having a cool-looking web site is a neat thing, but remember: There are still a significant number of fans out there (furry and otherwise) who don't use the World Wide Web, or who don't use it to it's full potential. For them, there's this cool old thing folks on the Internet call *Snail Mail*. That's where we come in! Send us information, and let us help you get the word out to over 1,000 furry fans, artists, dealers, and publishers in the U.S., Canada, Europe, Japan... Look below for our reasonable ad rates, and don't forget... send us text blurbs and you get in for **free**!

**A Request to Our Readers:** Hey, got a favorite comic or book store that carries your favorite furry titles, or that you wish would carry more? Give us their address! We'll send them a copy of *In-Fur-Nation* each quarter, and keep them abreast of the kind of comics and media that you would like to see on their shelves! Remember, they can't order it if they don't know it's out there! *As an alternate:* Know of any good comic zines or web sites that might be looking to trade issues?

**Guess what? In-Fur-Nation is looking for Field Reporters!** As an on-going feature, we're going to present profiles of furry creators and furry-oriented companies that are helping to promote products and media of interest to funny animal fans all over. So, like to help out? Know a comic book creator, animator, publisher, or other such person in the field who'd like to discuss what furries mean to them, or to the world? Talk to them, write down what they say... then give us a write-up, about 300-500 words, and we'll include it as a blurb in an upcoming INF, and give you credit for it. [We do maintain the right to edit for clarity and length, mind you.] And hey, we're looking for **furry convention reviews and anecdotes** too! Send hard copies to the Furry Stuff address above, or, you can e-mail your submission to **Rod O'Riley** at [minik@firstlight.net](mailto:minik@firstlight.net).

**Advertising in In-Fur-Nation:** For those who've been asking, ads in *In-Fur-Nation* come in these sizes: 1/8-page "business card" size for \$5.00 per issue, and 1/4-page size (4 1/2" tall by 3 1/4" wide) for \$10.00 per issue. Full-page inclusions can also be arranged for \$50.00 an issue. Check should be made out to Furry Stuff. Send camera-ready art and text to P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958, or send email to [minik@firstlight.net](mailto:minik@firstlight.net).

(Many thanks to all the people who helped provide information for this issue both by mail and via Internet! Invaluable help was also received from the web masters of the various

furry conventions out there, and from *Previews* magalog and *Animation* magazine.)

## More Furry Conventions All Around!

### Further Confusion 2006 – Fur Your Eyes Only

January 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006, at ye olde Doubletree Hotel in San Jose, California. Fabulous technology, dastardly villains out to rule the world, and of course, furry heroes in dashing tailored suits! Further Confusion salutes furies in James-Bond style spy adventures, wherever they be found next...

From the web site at [www.furtherconfusion.org](http://www.furtherconfusion.org): "Further Confusion is one of the largest international conventions celebrating anthropomorphics in all its guises. With an attendance of over 1,400 and growing, it is one of the premiere events of its kind. Further Confusion includes charitable benefits, educational seminars, art shows, panels and general social activities. It was the first event sponsored by Anthropomorphic Arts and Education Inc. and continues to be its largest."

FC's Guests of Honor for 2006 include science fiction author **Jerry Pournelle** (co-creator of the *Man-Kzin* Wars series), the multi-talented artist known as **Baron Engel**, and the multi-instrumented popular electronica band known as **Sub Level 03**.

Membership at FC2005 start at **\$45.00** for full membership (five days), and goes up to **\$100.00** for a Sponsorship and **\$200.00** for a patron membership (check out the web site for more details). Mail-in registration will only be accepted until December 30, 2006, so get yours in soon. Information on Dealer Tables, Artists Alley (The Furry Marketplace), and on-line registration can be found on the web site too. Or, you can write them at: Further Confusion Registration, 105 Serra Way PMB 236, Milpitas, CA 95035.

Rooms at both the Doubletree Hotel (just a stone's throw from the San Jose Int'l Airport) and the overflow hotel (the nearby Holiday Inn) have **SOLD OUT**. Visit the convention's web site to find a list of nearby hotels and motels that are available – don't worry, there are plenty of them.

### Rusfurence

Furry Fandom is ever-expanding! The latest furry convention in Russia will take place January 29 - February 2, 2007, at the Muscovite Recreation Center in Moscow. In the past, Rusfurence has welcomed more than 100 furry fen from the area and all over Russia, as well as Europe. Visit <http://rusfurence.ru/2007> to find out more. [An English translation site is also available.]

### Furry Weekend Atlanta

The Deep South's Anthropomorphics Exposition takes place February 16<sup>th</sup> thru 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007, in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. This time FWA welcomes Special Guest Artists **Strider Orion** (fan artist) and **Daria McGrain** (comic book artist and editor, creator of *Genus Male*).

FWA 2007 will be held at the Sheraton Gateway Hotel (1900 Sullivan Road, Atlanta, GA 30337). The phone number is (770) 997-1100. The room rate is **\$89.00** a night (single through quad), but you must call the Sheraton Reservations line at 1-800-325-3535 and mention the Furry Weekend Atlanta to get that rate.

Memberships at FWA2007 come in several levels, the most basic being an Attending Membership for **\$35.00** – by mail, until February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2007. Attending memberships are **\$40.00** at the door. Supporting (non-attending) Memberships are also available for **\$15.00**, and various levels of Sponsorship are available too. Check the FWA web site at [www.furryweekend.com](http://www.furryweekend.com) for more information, or to download a registration pdf file.

### Megaplex 6 – Start the Game!

In 2007, Megaplex will feature a Furry Game Show theme, complete with blinking lights (check out <http://ppmp.info/mp06/> to see what we mean). Megaplex 6 takes place March 2 - 4, 2007 in Jacksonville, Florida.

Megaplex 2007 is happy to announce that **Mike Kazaleh** will be joining us as Guest of Honor this year! Mike is a professional animator and comics artist; old-school furry fans will remember his comics work on *The Adventures of Captain Jack* (Fantagraphics), and *Mean Green Bongo Machine* and *The Suit* (MU Press). He has also drawn *Ren and Stimpy* for Marvel, *Cow and Chicken* for DC Comics, and *The Mighty Mutanimals* for Archie Comics, and is currently working on *Futurama* for Bongo Comics and *Camp Lazlo* for DC. Animation-wise, his credits include *The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse*, *Tiny Toon Adventures*, and *The Simpsons*; more recently, he has worked on *Krypto the Superdog*, *Johnny Test*, and *Hi Hi Puffy Ami Yumi*. He was also a storyboard artist for *The Ant Bully*.

Megaplex 6 will be held at the Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk, 1515 Prudential Drive, Jacksonville, FL 32207. Rooms have been negotiated for **\$99.00** a night (plus 6.5% state sales tax and 5% occupancy tax). For Reservations, call (904) 396-5100 and use reservation code: 0301886pa, or visit Megaplex's web site for information about on-line hotel registration. Register before January 30<sup>th</sup> for the convention rate! The Wyndham is a short distance from the Museum of Science and History (MOSH), Friendship Park, and River City Brewing Company, which can easily be reached via the Riverwalk. The hotel is also a stop for the S.S. Marine Taxi service, which is a convenient way to get to the shops and restaurants at the Jacksonville Landing. The San Marco shopping district is close by, and Five Points and Riverside are just over the Fuller Warren Bridge (I-95 to Park Street). Jacksonville International Airport (JAX) is just 20 minutes away.

Attending memberships are available now for **\$35.00**, with various levels of sponsorship available also. To find out more about memberships and Special Events (as they get the information), visit the Megaplex web site at <http://ppmp.info>.

### All Fur Fun 2007

(From WikiFur:) All Fur Fun is a new furry convention that will be held from March 30 to April 1, 2007 at the Ridpath Hotel in Spokane, Washington. Planned features include a Dealers Den and Artists Alley, fursuiting events; and writing, craft, Second Life, and lifestyle panels. **Katie Hofgard** (Wolf Nymph/Shadow Wolf) is the first year's guest of honor.

Registered attendance costs \$30.00 before March 1 and \$40.00 afterwards, with sponsorship levels of **\$100.00** and **\$250.00** beyond that. Hotel rates are **\$80.00** for 1 or 2 room occupants, **\$90.00** for 3 or 4 occupants. Visit [www.allfurfun.com](http://www.allfurfun.com) to find out more.

### Don't Forget – Coming Soon: The Ursa Major Awards for 2006!

More formally known as the Annual Anthropomorphic Literature and Arts Award, the Ursa Major Award is presented annually for excellence in the furry arts. It is intended as Anthropomorphic (a.k.a. Furry) Fandom's equivalent of the Hugo Award ® (presented by the World Science Fiction Society), mystery fandom's Anthony Award, horror fandom's Bram Stoker Award, and so forth.

Anyone may nominate. **Nominations** for 2006 works will open during January 2007. However, recommendations are now being accepted for inclusion in the 2006 Recommended Anthropomorphics List (available for viewing at [www.ursamajorawards.com](http://www.ursamajorawards.com)), which is being constantly updated. **Voting** for the 2006 Ursa Major Award will take place during the first half of 2007. Please contact us if you wish to receive a ballot (see below). The Award will be presented at CalFur.3 in Southern California in May.

To be eligible, a work must have been released between January 1 and December 31 of the calendar year for that award (in this case, 2006), and must include a non-human being given human attributes (anthropomorphic), which can be mental and/or physical (for example the intelligent rabbits in *Watership Down* for the former, and Bugs Bunny for the latter.) Simply including an animal character is not sufficient to qualify. Nominations are not limited to items included on the Recommended Anthropomorphics List, which are simply some people's recommendations. Any works first published during the year under consideration are eligible. The Ursa Major Award categories include Best Anthropomorphic: Motion Picture, Dramatic Short Work or Series, Novel, Short Fiction, Other Literary Work (such as short story collections or art portfolio books, etc.), Comic Book, Comic Strip (paper or on-line), Fanzine, Published Illustration, Game (FRP or video), and Miscellany (items that don't fit elsewhere, such as toys or models, etc.).

To find out more about the Ursa Major Awards for 2004, visit the web site or send a SASE to: Ursa Major Award, c/o Rod O'Riley, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92642-1958, U.S.A.

That's all for this time folks – and all for this year! We'll be back with our next issue bright and early in January of 2007. So look for us then! Keep up with the World Wide Furry Movement here in the pages of In-Fur-Nation! And Thank You for Voting!



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attention? Good!**



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